

County Snapshot

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Located near the geographic center of California, **Tulare County** is bordered on the north by Fresno County, on the east by Inyo County, on the south by Kern County, and on the west by Kings County.

With a projected population of 569,900 by 2020, Tulare County is expected to experience strong growth over the next 20 years. The influx of new residents will add approximately 198,200 or 53 percent to the current population.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for the county to be 166,500 with an unemployment rate of 16.4 percent. Typically, agriculturally oriented counties tend to have higher unemployment rates and greater seasonal variations in employment. The state's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent for this period.

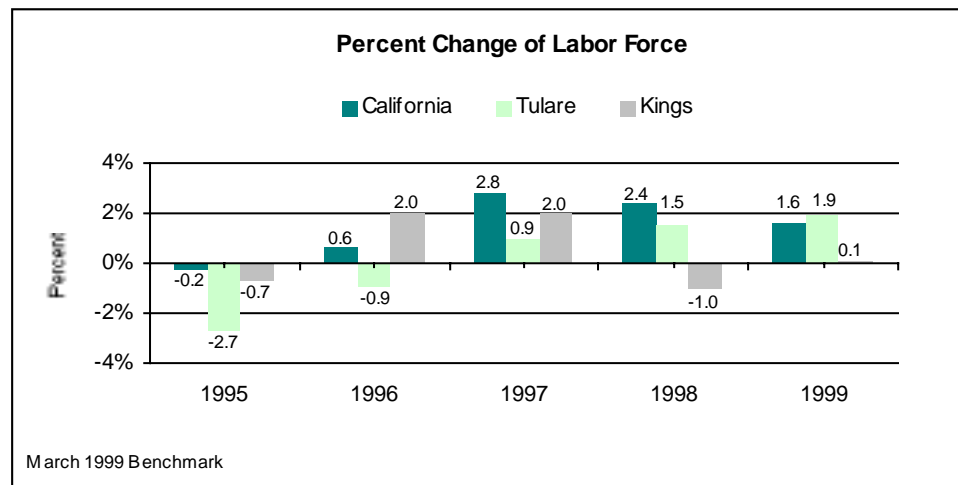
Agriculture is the largest industry in the county, accounting for 27 percent of total employment. Other significant industry sectors providing employment are government with 20.6 percent, retail trade with 14.8 percent, and services with 14.4 percent.

Services is the fastest growing industry in the county, with a projected growth rate of 9.4 percent. The services industry is expected to add 1,600 jobs by 2002, with most of the growth occurring in the business services sector, but a significant portion will be in health services, specifically home health care workers.

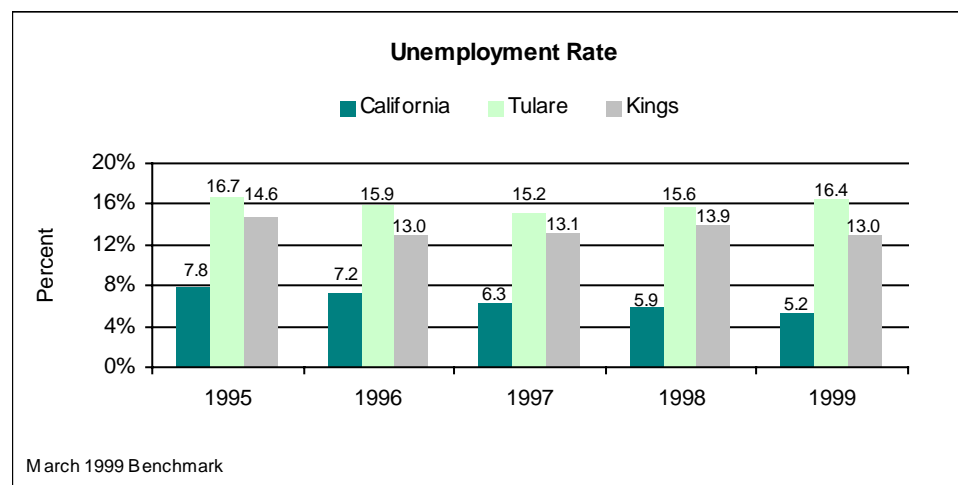
Tulare County has experienced slow growth in its labor market conditions during this five-year period, mainly due to weather related disasters. For example, Tulare was, by far, the hardest hit county in the state as a result of the devastating December 1998 freeze.

LABOR FORCE

Despite weather related disasters such as the winter storms in 1996, the floods in February of 1998 and the freeze of December 1998, Tulare County recorded growth in the annual average civilian labor force beginning in 1997 which continued through 1999. The greatest gains were recorded in 1999 with 1.9 percent. Affected by the same disasters, neighboring Kings County experienced fluctuating employment patterns from 1995 to 1999.

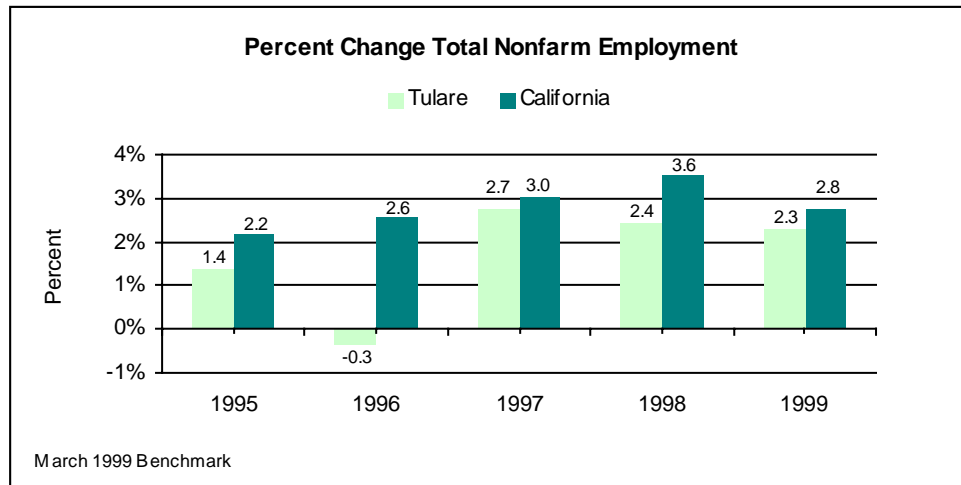


From 1995 to 1999, Tulare and Kings counties have experienced high fluctuating annual average unemployment rates due primarily to the economic effects of their agri-based economies and to a series of weather related disasters occurring in the state over the last several years.

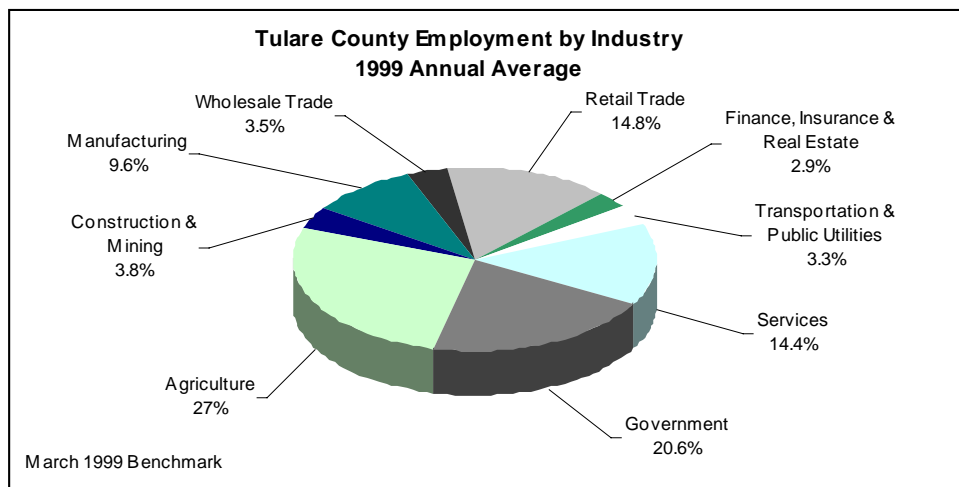


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Tulare County nonagricultural wage and salary employment bounced back to show strong growth (2.7 percent) in 1997. From 1995 to 1999, payroll employment grew by 6,400 jobs. Government and services accounted for most of the growth.



In 1999, Tulare County employment was dominated by agriculture, government, and retail trade. During the forecast period, projections for this area indicate that services, retail trade, and government will account for 84 percent of the nonagricultural job growth.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Tulare County is projected to have employment opportunities not only in the high turnover occupations but also in the more technologically advanced categories.

Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 9.4%
	Home Health Care Workers – 100 job openings. Care for elderly, convalescent, or handicapped persons in the homes of their patients. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.03
	Registered Nurses – 90 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$24.52
	Medical Assistants – 60 job openings. Perform various duties under the direction of physician in examination and treatment of patients. Prepare treatment room, inventory supplies and instruments, and set up patient for attention of physician. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.90
	General Managers, Top Executives – 50 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$23.99
	Secretaries, General – 50 job openings. Schedule appointments, give information to callers, take dictation, compose and type routine correspondence, read and route incoming mail, and file correspondence and other records. Post-secondary vocational education. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.77
Associated Occupations	RETAIL TRADE 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 6.3%
	Salespersons, Retail – 370 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.85
	Cashiers – 180 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.67
	Waiters and Waitresses – 150 job openings. Serve food and drink to customers. Duties may include explanation about how the meal is prepared, wine recommendations or simple food preparation at the table. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.99
	First-Line Supervisor / Manager Sales – 70 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of marketing, sales, and related workers. May perform management functions, such as budgeting, accounting, marketing, and personnel work. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.40
	Food Preparation Workers – 60 job openings. Perform a variety of food preparation duties, such as preparing cold foods and maintaining and cleaning kitchen work areas, equipment, and utensils. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.97
Associated Occupations	GOVERNMENT 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 4.2%
	Police Patrol Officers – 60 job openings. Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, protect life and property in an assigned patrol district or beat. Patrol on foot or in a vehicle; investigate accidents; apprehend, arrest and process prisoners; and give evidence in court. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$21.82
	Fire Fighters – 50 job openings. Control and extinguish fires, protect life and property, maintain equipment as employees of city township, State or Federal Government. Long-term on-the job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$17.72
	Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs – 40 job openings. Enforce law and order in rural or unincorporated districts or serve legal processes of courts. May patrol courthouse, guard court or grand jury, or escort defendants. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.94
	Misc. Helpers, Laborers – Hand, NEC – 30 job openings. Perform a broad array of helper and laborer jobs that require little training; assist more skilled production, construction, operating and maintenance workers with routine, physical work under close supervision. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.24
	Compliance Officers And Enforcement Inspectors, Except Construction – 20 job openings. Enforce adherence to policies, procedures, or regulations and advise on standards. May inspect and enforce regulations on such matters as health, safety, food, immigration, licensing, or interstate commerce. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$14.31

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
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Labor Market Information Division
(916) 262-2162